



ABOUT US

Developmental Disabilities Housing Initiative (DDHI) is a Vermont parent-run advocacy group with over 125 families. We support the development of stable, service-supported Peer Residences for our adult children, who have an Intellectual/Developmental Disability diagnosis (I/DD), qualify for Medicaid Home and Community-based Services (HCBS) waiver and have significant support needs.

DDHI parent members advocate to provide our life-long vulnerable adult children, many who are limited in their ability to express and protect themselves – with a stable home to live and friends to live with, long after we, their parents, are gone. Services will be based on person-centered planning and support to provide the opportunity for each individual to live and thrive in their chosen home integrated within the greater community.

Since 2021, we have successfully advocated for the development of housing options beyond adult foster care (Shared Living), the primary housing option available in Vermont. Act 186 provided funding for three Pilot Planning Grants to explore new housing models for adults with I/DD and a new Residential Services position at the Vermont Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living (DAIL). Our advocacy in partnership with Vermont Care Partners resulted in a 5% base increase in Medicaid wages for Developmental Services, and Adults with I/DD are now a priority population for funding through the Vermont Housing Conservation Board (VHCB) and the Vermont Housing Improvement Program (VHIP).

To address the 602-unit demand identified in the Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council's - 2023 Research Brief, the three Act 186 pilot housing models must be implemented to demonstrate viability, sustainability and efficiencies.

DDHI parents have formed teams across the state working with state housing partners and local designated and special services agencies to make our vision a reality. We continue to advocate for our adult children's needs at the state and local levels.



Contact Information

For questions, please contact Karen Price at karen.price@vfn.org.

The DDHI Housing Models Report, Needs Assessment, Family Stories, and 2024 Support Services Survey can be made available upon request.